

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COVER SUPPORT

TO OPERATION BLUE MOON

I. OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Operation BLUE MOON is low altitude photographic reconnaissance of selected military and intelligence targets on the Island of Cuba. The instrument to be used to accomplish the objective is the F8U aircraft.

II. GENERAL OPERATIONAL COVER PLAN:

During recent months, the United States has intensified its surveillance of the whole Caribbean area in order to acquire up-to-the-minute information on the nature and extent of the communist buildup. The U. S. Navy is flying normal surveillance missions in support of this objective, using F8U aircraft.

III. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS OPERATION THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE:

A. Hostile

Cuba

B. Other

Puerto Rico

Jamaica

Bahamas

Haiti

Dominican Republic

IV. PERTINENT COVER STORIES TO BE DISSEMINATED BY RESPONSIBLE ACTION OFFICES ARE INDICATED BELOW:

A. General Cover Story:

1. A comprehensive rationale for Operation BLUE MOON is found in the final communique of the Informal Meeting of Ministers of Foreign

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Affairs of the American Republics which was held in Washington on October 2 and 3, 1962, which reads in pertinent part as follows:

"The meeting observed that it is desirable to intensify surveillance of the delivery of arms and implements of war and all other items of strategic importance to the communist regime in Cuba, in order to prevent the secret accumulation in the Island of arms that can be used for offensive purposes against the Hemisphere."

The United States has intensified its surveillance of the Caribbean through the use of every means available to the nation to acquire up-to-the-minute information on the nature and extent of the communist buildup.

2. Responsible Action Office:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

B. Activities at Training/Staging Bases:

1. Cover Story:

None required. The presence of an F8U aircraft on a training/staging base requires no explanation.

C. Incident over Hostile Territory (See III, A):

1. Cover Story:

In this instance, the pilot is under strict instructions to destroy his aircraft at sea, with one exception. If he is within emergency landing distance of the Guantanamo Naval Base, he will head off-shore, contact the base by pre-arranged signal, which will scramble a fighter escort, and land at Guantanamo.

If he falls into the hands of Castro forces, he will provide name, rank, serial number, and no further information.

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2. Responsible Action Office:

Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

D. Incident Over Other Territory Outside the U. S. (see III, B):

1. Cover Story:

None required. The presence of an F8U aircraft on a training/staging mission requires no explanation.

E. Hostile Protest Without Incident:

1. Cover Story:

There will be no comment.

2. Responsible Action Office: Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

F. Emergency Landing at Civilian Airport within Continental United States with Journalists or Photographers Present:

1. Cover Story:

a. If aircraft shows battle damage, pilot may state, if queried by the press, that he was engaged in peripheral surveillance. If queried, he will deny overflight of Cuba.

b. If aircraft shows no battle damage, no cover story is required (see IV, B).

2. Responsible Action Office:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

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3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

V. CINCLANT (Vice Admiral Dennison) has been briefed on this cover plan by Colonel Ralph D. Steakley and has been instructed to refer all queries to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, OSD (Mr Sylvester).

VI. The following individuals have been furnished a copy of this document for internal coordination with cleared persons within their respective organizations:

Dr Joseph V. Charyk	Department of Defense
Brig Gen Edward G. Lansdale	Department of Defense
Mr Thomas Parrott	Executive Office to the President
Mr Roger Hilsman	Department of State
Dr Herbert Scoville	Central Intelligence Agency
Colonel Ralph D. Steakley	Department of Defense (JCS)

VII. It is desired that each agency maintain a list of all cleared personnel within their respective organizations who have been briefed on this cover plan.

VIII. The National Reconnaissance Office will notify each agency of any changes to this plan. Requests for alterations are to be coordinated with the NRO.

NRO Contact  
Office Telephone  
Home Telephone

Colonel Paul E. Worthman

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FRC (activity transferring documents)	DOCUMENT	DATE 19 Oct 62	PACKAGE NUMBER B00569R000900220046-2	CONTROL NUMBER 195-83	SUSPENSE DATE
		CLASSIFICATION TOP SECRET TS-SH	FILE DESIGNATION		
TO:  CIA (Dr Scoville)		INTERNAL ROUTING			
		TO	DATE	TO	DATE
		1.		4.	
		2.		5.	
		3.		6.	
DATE DISPATCHED 19 Oct 62					
DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT(S) (Indicate type (letter, indorsement, etc.) and the number of copies; subject, short title if classified; number of indorsements and inclosures, and any other identifying data. Changes in the description (additions, withdrawals, etc.) will be shown with the date and initials of individual making entry.)					
Memo for Mult Add, 19 Oct 62, sgd Dr Charyk, Project Blue Moon, 1 pg. cy 1 w/latch: 4 pgs					
25X1					
DOCUMENT RECEIPT	SENDER WILL INDICATE IF RECEIPT IS REQUIRED:		If YES, recipient will FIRST DETACH TOP COPY, then complete, and return to sender.)		
	RECEIVING OFFICE	TYPED OR PRINTED NAME, GRADE AND TITLE OF RECEIVER	DATE RECEIVED		
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**DOCUMENT RECORD AND RECEIPT**

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UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE	INITIALS	
1	DDCI				
2	DCI		09/24/62		
3	DD/R		10/25/62	[Signature]	
4	OSA (Reth)				
5					
6					
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
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Kirkpatrick				22 Oct 62	
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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record:

Today Dr. Scoville spoke with Col. Worthman on this paper. It is Dr. Scoville's feeling that under the present circumstances the pilot can be much more open on the cover story - say he is doing what was called for in accordance with the President's statement of last night.

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This should be put in Red Book. *JS*

10/23/62

(DATE)

FORM NO.  
1 AUG 54

101

REPLACES FORM 10-101  
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

MEMORANDUM FOR:

*Cover stories for:*  
*BLUE MOON*  
*NIMBUS*

*JS*  
*10/23/62*  
*De/JS*  
(DATE)

FORM NO.  
1 AUG 54

101

REPLACES FORM 10-101  
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)